

REMARKS

Claim status

Claims 1-6 and 8-17 were currently pending at the time of the advisory action. Claim 1 is currently amended herein. Claims 1-6 and 8-17 are currently pending in the application.

Section 103 rejections

In the current Office action, claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Esteller (US 6,594,524), hereinafter Esteller, in view of Voelz (US 4,779,100), hereinafter Voelz.

Applicants respectfully traverse the foregoing rejections in view of the above pending claims and for reasons set forth hereafter.

Esteller does not teach or suggest an adjusting unit for automatically time-centering a physiological signal with respect to the time dimension in a time window of predetermined window width in the time dimension as does the claimed invention of claim 1. Furthermore, Voelz does not teach or suggest an adjusting unit for automatically time-centering a physiological signal with respect to the time dimension in a time window of predetermined window width in the time dimension as does the claimed invention of claim 1.

Instead, Voelz describes being able to manually adjust either of two potentiometers. The first potentiometer provides adjustment of an amplitude of a signal (sensitivity), and the second potentiometer provides adjustment of a vertical position of the signal on a display (balance). Neither the sensitivity potentiometer nor the balance potentiometer of Voelz provides adjustment in the time dimension. The sensitivity potentiometer provides adjustment of the amplitude of the signal and the balance potentiometer simply allows a user to move the signal vertically up or down on the display. Examples are shown in Fig. 4 of Voelz and described in column 5, lines 38-48. Referring to Fig. 4 of Voelz, the horizontal dimension is the time dimension. No adjustment is made in this horizontal time dimension. Adjustments are only made in the vertical dimension which is an amplitude dimension and a vertical display dimension. The monostable

multivibrator of Voelz simply provides a pulse signal which is displayed below the physiological signal to indicate when one of the sensitivity potentiometer or the balance potentiometer has been adjusted. Again, no adjustment in the time dimension is taking place in Voelz.

Furthermore, the adjusting of sensitivity (amplitude) and/or balance (vertical display position) of the signal in Voelz is done manually by a user manipulating the potentiometer(s). The claimed subject matter of independent claim 1 automatically time-centers a physiological signal in a time window in the time dimension without any user intervention.

Therefore, in view of at least the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that independent claim 1 defines allowable subject matter. Furthermore, since claims 2-3 depend either directly or indirectly from independent claim 1, it is respectfully submitted that claims 2-3 define allowable subject matter as well. Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claims 1-3 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) be removed.

In the current Office action, claims 4-6, 8, 9, and 11-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Esteller in view of Voelz and further in view of Echauz et al. (US Patent No. 6,678,548), hereinafter Echauz.

Applicants respectfully traverse the foregoing rejections in view of the above pending claims and for reasons set forth hereafter.

As described above, Esteller and Voelz do not teach or suggest an adjusting unit for automatically time-centering a physiological signal with respect to the time dimension in a time window of predetermined window width in the time dimension as does the claimed invention of claim 1. Furthermore, Echauz does not teach or suggest an adjusting unit for automatically time-centering a physiological signal with respect to the time dimension in a time window of predetermined window width in the time dimension as does the claimed invention of claim 1.

Therefore, in view of at least the foregoing and the fact that claims 4-6, 8, 9, and 11-17 depend either directly or indirectly from independent claim 1, it is respectfully submitted that claims 4-6, 8, 9, and 11-17 define allowable subject matter as well. Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claims 4-6, 8, 9, and 11-17 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) be removed.

In the current Office action, claim 10 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Esteller in view of Voelz and further in view of Igel et al. (US Patent No. 6,192,273), hereinafter Igel.

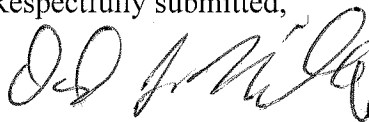
Applicants respectfully traverse the foregoing rejections in view of the above pending claims and for reasons set forth hereafter.

As described above, Esteller and Voelz do not teach or suggest an adjusting unit for automatically time-centering a physiological signal with respect to the time dimension in a time window of predetermined window width in the time dimension as does the claimed invention of claim 1. Furthermore, Igel does not teach or suggest an adjusting unit for automatically time-centering a physiological signal with respect to the time dimension in a time window of predetermined window width in the time dimension as does the claimed invention of claim 1.

Therefore, in view of at least the foregoing, and the fact that claim 10 depends indirectly from independent claim 1, it is respectfully submitted that claim 10 defines allowable subject matter as well. Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claim 10 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) be removed.

Accordingly, the applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the rejections and objections based on at least the foregoing. After such reconsideration, it is urged that allowance of claims 1-6 and 8-17 will be in order.

Respectfully submitted,



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